



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Everglades and
Dry Tortugas
National Parks

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Everglades National Park News Release

October 11, 2005

For Immediate Release

Rick Cook 305 242-7714

Park seeks public comment on airboat tour operations

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to issue temporary concession contracts to three airboat tour companies operating within the East Everglades Expansion Area of Everglades National Park. The NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental effects of authorizing airboat tours in the park over a three-year period.

Two Public Scoping Open Houses will be held:

October 26, 2005

John D. Campbell Agricultural Center
18710 SW 288 St.

Homestead, FL 33030

Time: 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

October 27, 2005

West Kendall Regional Library
10201 Hammocks Blvd.

Miami, FL 33196

Time: 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend to learn more about commercial airboat tours and the EA, ask questions, and share ideas, issues, and concerns. A brief presentation about the project will be given at 6:00 p.m. each day. NPS staff and the airboat tour operators will be on hand to answer questions and record input.

The NPS seeks the benefit of public comments on the scope of the analysis that will be conducted and input on issues and alternatives that should be considered, as well as any additional information, concerns or comments about the proposal. The comment period is October 12 – November 10, 2005. The public can learn more about the project and submit comments by visiting the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Comments can also be submitted via mail to:

Brien Culhane
Everglades National Park
Attn: Airboat Contracts Scoping Comments
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034

As soon as the draft EA is complete, the document will be released to the public to review for a period of 45 days, during which time another public workshop will be scheduled.

The NPS looks forward to public participation in the planning process. The project brochure and comment form can be viewed or downloaded on <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. To receive a project brochure by mail, or for more information about the project or the workshops, please contact Brien Culhane, Chief, Planning and Compliance by calling 305-242-7717, or by email at brien_culhane@nps.gov.

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